

CONFIDENTIAL.]

REPORT

[No. 3 of 1881.]

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 15th January 1881.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajivī"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmavārtā Prakāshikā"	Comercelly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong	600	5th January 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	3rd ditto.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	7th and 14th January 1881.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	4th January 1881.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Burdwān	296	11th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	9th ditto.
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	7th ditto.
13	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye	200	12th ditto.
14	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	31st December 1880.
15	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Ditto	.....
16	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	17th January 1881.
17	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	.....	2nd ditto.
18	"Pratikār"	Berhampore	275	
19	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kúkiniś, Rangpore	250	6th ditto.
20	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	9th ditto.
21	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	3rd ditto.
22	"Som Prakāsh"	Changripottā, 24-Perghs.	.....	3rd and 10th January 1881.
23	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Calcutta	4,000	8th January 1881.
24	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	3rd ditto.
25	"Tripurā Vārtāvaha"	Commillah	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
26	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Calcutta	700	5th and 12th January 1881.
27	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	10th to 15th ditto.
28	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	10th to 14th ditto.
29	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	9th to 15th ditto.
30	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	10th and 11th ditto.
31	"Samāchār Sudhābarsan"	Ditto	.....	10th to 13th ditto.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
32	"Urdu Guide"	Ditto	365	8th January 1881.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
33	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	30th December 1880.
34	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	6th January 1881.
35	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	10th ditto.
36	"Uchit Baktā"	Ditto	.....	1st ditto.
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	7th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Tijarat-ul-Akhbār"	Ditto	.....
ASSAMESE.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
39	"Assam Vilāsini"	Sibsagar	.....

POLITICAL.

SOM PRAKASH,
January 3rd, 1881.

THE following observations are extracted from an article in the *Som Prakash*, of the 3rd January, headed

Superiority of Russia in diplomacy.

"Russia has outwitted England in diplomacy"—In spite of the well-founded reputation of British rulers as clever and skilful diplomatists possessed of remarkable foresight, we are surprized to notice that they have been outwitted by Russian statesmen in diplomacy. It is clear they are finding it hard to comprehend the political feats of their rivals. During the Russo-Turkish war they were completely checkmated by Russia, which succeeded in conquering Turkey, while England merely looked on without being able, even by word, to render any aid to the Sultan. Russia is quietly extending her power and conquests in Central Asia, and thus producing uneasiness in the minds of the British nation. On the occasion of the war between Turkey and Russia, England, indeed, for political reasons, found herself unable to assist Turkey, but Russia was not subsequently deterred by any such considerations from lending assistance to Persia. Now the reason why the clever and able British statesmen have thus found themselves outwitted by semi-barbarous Russian diplomatists is that they are always haunted by an insensate fear of Russia. It is for this that the British Government occasionally seeks to inspire its rival with fear of its power. Such efforts, however, only provoke ridicule. To this fear of Russia may be attributed the sending of Indian troops to Malta and the celebration of the Imperial Assemblage at Delhi. Russia showed her fearlessness and replied by sending a small mission to Cabul. The results of this proceeding clearly showed her diplomatic superiority. It is idle to seek to bind Russia down by any treaties. That power is so bent on conquests, and is so unscrupulous as to the means she employs to attain her object, that treaties have no binding force upon her. It behoves British statesmen to give up this insensate fear of Russia and repose in the consciousness of their own strength and rectitude. It is neither proper nor politic that they should by passing obnoxious laws weaken the native princes whose loyalty to the paramount power should be the strongest bulwark of the permanence of British rule in India. Let Government seek to win the good will of these chiefs, and begin to act with vigour and fearlessness. It may then easily defy the power of Russia.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

BEHAR BANDHU,
December 30th, 1880.

2. The *Behar Bandhu* remarks in reference to the letter of the Govern-

The Draft Rent Bill.
Government letter to the British
Indian Association.

ment of Bengal to the British Indian Association, expressing the views of the Lieutenant-Governor on the draft Bill of the Bengal Rent Law Commission, that apparently His Honor does not see the impracticability of the proposal to confer the occupancy right upon the tenant. If it were carried out, the landlords would seek to prevent the accrual of this right by granting short leases. They would have no objection to the proposal to confer upon the tenant the right of transferring occupancy holdings if only they were allowed the right of pre-emption. This, while preventing the passing of the greater portion of landed property in Behar into the hands of the indigo-planters—a result which could only mean the exclusion of the tenants from all interests therein—would not at the same time injure the landlords. The Editor does not see the need of appointing district committees for fixing a table of rates, because over such committees the landlords are likely to have a predominant influence.

PARIDARSHAK,
January 2nd, 1881.

3. The *Paridarshak*, of the 2nd January, makes the following observations in reference to the present troubles in Sonthalistan :—Different reasons

Discontent of the Sonthals.

have been assigned for the acts of violence which are being now committed by the Sonthals, but it seems to us that it is the fear of taxation and the high-handed proceedings of the local officials that have driven them to rebellion. Let Government but protect them from oppression, and explain to them that the taking of a census is not in the least connected with any scheme of taxation, and the Sonthals will at once be pacified. We trust our able Lieutenant-Governor, Sir Ashley Eden, will succeed in pacifying them in their present excited condition. Force, however, must at first be resorted to, but we would warn Government against the danger of remaining content with only restoring a temporary peace. What is required is that efforts should be made to remove the causes of the discontent which exists among the Sonthals.

4. The *Srihatta Prakásh*, of the 3rd January, observes in reference to the rumour regarding the probable abolition of the Chief Commissionership of Assam that this journal had always advocated the continuance of the office. Unfortunately the successive Chief Commissioners have not been such as to answer the expectations or redress the grievances of the people of Assam. The abolition of the office, therefore, would not now be viewed with regret.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,
January 3rd, 1881.

5. The same paper notices with gratification that the land-holders of Sylhet have this time shown themselves considerably wiser in the matter of subscribing to the Patriotic Fund. Making contributions in aid of the families of those who perished or were wounded in the Cabul war is indeed a meritorious act; but considering the embarrassed condition of the land-holders of this district, they have acted properly in not showing sufficient eagerness to subscribe merely for reputations' sake. A zemindar who fails to pay his regular instalment of the land revenue is subjected to the grossest indignities. Even the police constables do not fail to abuse him unsparingly. Government again has begun to make efforts to injure the rights of the land-holders. Thus they are required to construct roads and other works of public utility at their own expense, and pay the road and the dâk cesses. It therefore behoves them to regulate their donations by consideration of their pecuniary means. It is not creditable to Government that while the interests of the zemindars are thus being injured in different ways, they should be called upon to subscribe in aid of any charitable scheme. Beyond a few Honorary Magistrates made through the favour of Mr. Johnson, and whose number is but very small considering the extent of this district, there is not one zemindar in Sylhet who has been honoured with the title of Ray or Rajah Bahadoor. In conclusion, the Editor invites the attention of the land-holders to certain provisions of the draft Rent Bill of the Bengal Commission which are calculated to curtail their existing privileges, and remarks that it is quite possible that the measure, if passed into law, will ultimately be extended to Assam.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH.

6. The same paper is glad to learn that the Chief Commissioner has directed an abatement of the rent rate fixed in the last settlement in certain pergunnahs of the Jyntea Hills. There is so great a difference in the quality of land in the six pergunnahs which were first brought under settlement, and in the quality of that in the remaining twelve pergunnahs, that it seems really strange that the settlement officers could at all think of imposing a uniform rent rate upon the inhabitants of these tracts—and yet it was done. The land situated in the first-named pergunnahs is far superior to that of the remaining twelve.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH.

SRINATTA PRAKASH.
January 3rd, 1881.

7. The same paper writes a long article on a case under the Indian Arms Act, tried in Sylhet, in which two wealthy traders of the district have been both

A case under the Arms Act.

finned and imprisoned, and another also of the same place is still awaiting his trial for selling arms and ammunition in excess of the quantity covered by their licenses. The conduct of the police, who, in a manner, tempted them to commit the illegality, is severely condemned, and the authorities asked, in consideration of the facts of the case, to discharge the traders.

SAHACHAR,
January 3rd, 1881.

8. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Sahachar*, of the 3rd January, headed "Oppressions connected with the License-tax":—We hope Sir Ashley Eden will keep a sharp eye on the officers connected with the assessment and collection of the license-tax. That it is extremely impolitic to tax petty traders is a fact which even Sir John Strachey found himself compelled to admit. Most people in this country seldom take notice of anything which may be going on beyond the immediate sphere of their observation. An abundant crop yielding plenty of food, and the peaceful enjoyment of what little money they may have, are all that they require to keep them contented. But if in attaining this state any thing stands in their way, there will be murmuring. In that mood the people are apt to listen, even to the rumours of the bazar, hostile to Government. Thus, although it is nothing unusual for a civilized Government to take a census of the population subject to it, and although the operation was before tried with success even in this country, still so great has been the distrust produced in the public mind by the financial policy of the Lytton-Strachey administration that in almost all matters the motives of Government are even now misconstrued. Thus the Sonthals have come to the conclusion that the census will prove but the prelude to the imposition of a new tax, although, as a matter of fact, any such intention is far from the mind of Government. The imposition of the license-tax has been a very serious blunder. It has produced a feeling of unrest in the minds of the ignorant and the lower classes of native society. Government should seek to make the people feel that they enjoy the blessings of good administration. No Government can properly do its work without the co-operation of the people. The educated and the reflecting few, of course, understand this very well, yet even they are not willing to pay any direct tax. Has it been politic to impose upon the ignorant and easily excitable portion of the community a direct tax which, as was seen in the case of the income-tax, was so strongly protested against even by Europeans and was in the end abolished? Add to this, the license-tax has been in its working attended with oppression. The assessors do not observe the rule regarding the exemption of all incomes below Rs. 500. They assess incomes at figures higher than what they really are, and then fix the tax; and the result of this is that those who had formerly to pay but a small sum have now to pay more. Since such is the case in Calcutta and the suburbs, one might easily imagine what is being done in the mofussil. There is indeed provision for appeals, but an appellant has to dance attendance at court for at least four days, and it would seem as though the assessors really wished to harass the assessee into paying the tax. The assessor who can show the largest collections is often, in the estimation of our rulers, the ablest man, and this is a fruitful cause of oppression. The people have an unbounded confidence in Sir Ashley Eden's impartiality, and we would therefore ask His Honor to redress their wrongs. Sir John Strachey reduced the duty on salt, and gave Bengal instead the license-tax. We have said before, and do still repeat, that the reduction of the salt duty has not, even by a quarter of a pice, cheapened salt to the retail purchaser. The people would not murmur even if they paid half a pice more for every seer of the article; but no; our financiers

love theories, and would much rather see the license-tax suck dry the life-blood of the people than forego the pleasure of achieving the highest triumph of financial skill—the equalization of the salt duty. It is for this that the public has now begun to talk of the desirability of transferring the power of taxation from the hands of Government to those of the representatives of the people. Certainly it is not possible for half a dozen foreigners living at Simla to frame measures of public importance which should be capable of meeting the views and requirements of the whole Indian population. No one, of course, questions their good intentions. But certainly the members of the Governor-General's Council cannot achieve impossibilities.

9. The same paper resumes its comments on the draft Rent Bill.

The Draft Rent Bill.

Sections 13, 14, and 15. The Editor supports the view taken by the framers of the Bill as

to the desirability of applying the theory of merger in the case of *putni* and *darputni* tenures. Section 16. There has been much litigation occasioned by the provisions for enhancing the rents, and it does not seem that the courts have yet succeeded in putting a final construction upon the sections of Act X bearing upon this subject. The Bill should contain explanations of the terms "abatement of rent," "and the "changing of rates of rent." If owing to scarcity of food the landlord agrees for one year to reduce the rent, will the fact be regarded as a ground of enhancement? He is obliged to charge low rents when the land loses in fertility, but would not he be entitled to enhance them if there was an increase in its productive powers? The explanations subjoined are not very clear. In explanation I, it should be laid down that the fluctuations in the price of the produce should not be regarded as any variation of the rent rate; and in explanation II, it should be clearly affirmed that if in the case of a holding owned by co-sharers the rent payable for it remains unchanged at the time of its partition between them, it shall not be enhanced at any subsequent period, because it is quite possible for any one of the co-sharers to agree to pay the landlord an enhanced rent in the hope that he may thereby injure the other co-sharers. Section 17 is good, and is just both to landlord and tenant, although, it must be confessed, that it will be somewhat difficult for the former to make out that he has a good ground of enhancement.

10. The same paper in referring to the views of Government on the

Text-books for Vernacular Medical Schools.

report of the committee which was appointed to select suitable text-books for the use of the pupils in the vernacular medical schools in

this country, expresses its general concurrence in them. The Editor, however, regrets that Mr. Croft should have considered it necessary to disapprove of the use of Sanskrit words in the text-books to be compiled. There is a copious vocabulary to be found in the old Sanskrit works on Hindu Medicine, and it will not be always necessary to coin new words.

11. A correspondent of the same paper writes to say that the inhabitants

Forcible dispossession of holders of rent-free lands in Midnapore.

of the Chetua circle, in sub-division Ghatal, of the Midnapore district, are being forcibly made to execute kabuliyats purporting to

relinquish their rights in the land on the river banks which Government requires for embankment purposes. They have not received any compensation from Government. The writer asks Sir Ashley Eden to attend to the subject.

12. Referring to the fearful prevalence of malarious fever and great

The Epidemic in Nuddea.

mortality caused by it in the Nuddea district, the *Navavibhakar*, of the 3rd January, remarks

with regret that Government has as usual shown its liberality only on paper. The people of this country are so poor, and have to pay so many taxes, that

SAHACHAR,
January 3rd, 1881.

SAHACHAR.

SAHACHAR.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 3rd, 1881.

for almost every public undertaking of a costly character they have to look to Government for success. In this matter of the epidemic in Nuddea, had the local Government but promptly responded to the call for aid made by the district Magistrate, the mortality could have been considerably kept down. The conduct of the Commissioner, Mr. Monro, and of the Government of Bengal in this instance might very well remind one of the attitude of the Government of the North-Western Provinces and of the Strachey-Lytton administration towards the last famine in those provinces. There has been shown the same indifference and the desire to suppress facts; for, in the present case, Government in its letter to Mr. Monro, asking his opinion on the epidemic, did really suppress the facts. The conduct of Government has really struck people dumb. No one had dreamt that the sufferings of the people would be so strangely overlooked under the administration of Sir Ashley Eden. In conclusion the Editor earnestly urges on His Honor the importance of the subject, and of the duty of Government to make strenuous efforts to rid this country of malaria.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
January 3rd, 1881.

13. The same paper, after commending the action of Sir Ashley Eden in the matter of Mr. Campbell, Judge of Burrisal, asks His Honor to take some effective measures for checking the high-handed proceedings of European officers in the mofussil. His Honor must be aware, from his long residence in this country, of the existence of such oppressions. In this connection it would be well if he adopted the suggestion of the Famine Commission, that an officer proved to be unfit for his office should have his promotion, under certain conditions, stopped for ever.

High-handedness of officers in the
Mofussil.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

14. The same paper contains an article which explains the object and importance of taking a census. It is doubtful, remarks the Editor, whether it will be possible to obtain reliable statistics. The enumerators are likely to be mostly uneducated and unprincipled persons who will neither be able to understand what is required of them, nor willing to undertake gratuitously the trouble necessary to secure accuracy. The school-masters in the mofussil may be relied upon, but not so the zemindars, who, it is almost certain, will depute their inferior servants to this work. The information, again, that is asked for in the several columns of the enumerator's form is of so varied and often of so abstract a character that there will be much room for mistake. Many will find it hard to distinguish between physical and mental infirmity, as also as in the case of the labourers from Behar working in Calcutta to answer the question as to their language. In these circumstances, it cannot be confidently predicted that the population of these provinces will be accurately known. What, however, can be predicted with certainty is that Mr. Bourdillon will earn both fame, reward, and promotion.

The Census.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

15. A correspondent of the same paper writes to say that the agitation regarding the desirability of continuing the office of Press Commissioner appears to him to be mainly due to the strenuous exertions which are being made by Mr. Lethbridge to save his post. He is visiting the Editors of the Calcutta newspapers with a view to persuade them of the importance of his office, and induce them to memorialize Government for its continuance. The *Naravibhakar* remarks that, so far as he is concerned, he has not had the honor of receiving any visit from Mr. Lethbridge.

The Press Commissioner.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
January 3rd, 1881.

16. The *Ananda Bazar Patrika*, of the 3rd January, notices with regret that the Government of Sir Ashley Eden has shown itself perfectly indifferent to the

The Epidemic in Nuddea.

sufferings of the malaria-stricken inhabitants of the Nuddea district. There is dreadful mortality among them, but Government has not yet taken any remedial measures.

17. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 4th January, learns with gratification that the rumour circulated by the *Times*, that Lord Ripon intended to resign, has not proved

BHARAT MIHIR,
January 4th, 1881.

Lord Ripon.

true. Few Viceroys have ever succeeded in winning so much popularity in so short a time as has been done by His Excellency. Perhaps the fact that he has succeeded Lord Lytton and his high moral character have greatly contributed to this result. The people of India are confident that, even if his rule may not see the end of all their wants and grievances, it will not, at least, cause them any fresh heart-burning. Now that Lord Ripon has recovered his health, it is to be earnestly hoped that His Excellency will attend to the measures of internal administration.

18. The same paper asks Government to attend to the improvement of native agriculture without which there will be no real advancement of the material prosperity of the people. Works on agriculture should be made text-books in the schools.

BHARAT MIHIR.

Improvement of agriculture.

19. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 8th January, remarks in reference to the proposal to appoint a native gentleman to officiate for Mr. Justice Sewell White, about to go on furlough, that this time it would

URDU GUIDE,
January 8th, 1881.

A Mahomedan Judge for the Calcutta High Court.

be desirable to select a qualified Mahomedan gentleman for the acting appointment.

20. The *Sulabha Samāchār*, of the 8th January, characterizes the persistent agitation made by the merchants of Manchester for a repeal of the cotton duties

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
January 8th, 1881.

The reasonableness of Manchester.

as extremely selfish and unreasonable. What they really want is the ruin of the cloth mills of this country, while they affect to be deeply concerned for the welfare of the people of India. The Editor hopes that Lord Ripon will not accede to their selfish demands.

21. The *Dacca Prakāsh*, of the 9th January, directs the attention of the authorities of the Eastern Bengal Railway to the inconvenience caused to the mahajuns by the arbitrary and frequent changes made in

DACCA PRAKASH,
January 9th, 1881.

Inconvenience of passengers on board the steamer plying between Dacca and Goalundo.

the time of running the steamer *Princess Alice* which plies between Dacca and Goalundo. The traders do not receive their goods in time. The passengers also, particularly those holding third class tickets, are seriously inconvenienced for want of proper accommodation. They are huddled up with cattle and fowls. There are no separate water-closets provided for their use, nor does the steamer stop near marts or towns to allow them to land and cook their food.

22. The *Sādhārānī*, of the 9th January, while recognizing the necessity of agitating for justice in the case of Mr. Moseley and Babu Atul Chandra Chat-

SADHARANI,
January 9th, 1881.

Mr. Moseley.

terjee, respectively, the Magistrate and Deputy Magistrate of Moorshedabad, would yet dissuade those who are eager to bring the matter to the notice of the members of Parliament from that course. In this case, the utmost that should be done would be to pray for justice to the highest authorities in India. A memorial to Parliament would not do the least good, while it might not improbably be regarded as disagreeable by the members.

23. The same paper gives the particulars of a monster meeting of ryots held on the 2nd instant at Kissengunj, in the Nuddea district, under the auspices of the Indian Association. Nearly ten thousand

SADHARANI.

A meeting of ryots in Kissengunj, in Nuddea.

men were present. The provisions of the draft Rent Bill were, on the whole, approved of, and resolutions were proposed and carried unanimously.

SOM PRAKASH,
January 10th, 1881.

24. A correspondent of the *Som Prákásh*, of the 10th January, writes a long letter dwelling on the injustice involved in the order for excluding Bengalis from appointments in the Commissariat Department, and asks Lord Ripon to do justice after considering all the facts of the case. The correspondent shows that, as a matter of fact, in the recent Afghan war the number of Bengalis in the Commissariat Branch was larger than that of East Indians or Punjabis; that they suffered the greatest hardships and privations, and bore insulting and often cruel treatment at the hands of the rude European soldiers with the utmost meekness; and that they have done their duty. No reward, however, has fallen to their lot, while others have had honors and rewards lavished upon them. And now, for the faults of a few, the whole race is declared ineligible for field service. Why not similarly exclude the whole body of East Indians for the faults of the few who may be found incompetent among them? The writer then dwells on the loyal services rendered by Bengalis during the mutiny, the Punjaub war, the Abyssinian expedition &c.

SOM PRAKASH.

25. The same paper in referring to the frequent breaches of the peace committed by drunken rioters on the road leading from Taligunj to Baisnabghata in the suburbs, asks Government to establish a police outpost in the locality. The attention of the Magistrate of the 24-Pergunnahs is also directed to the necessity of taking note of the bad characters in the adjacent villages.

HINDU RANGIKA,
January 12th, 1881.

26. A correspondent of the *Hindu Rangiká*, of the 12th January, asks Government to take measures for the clearance of the dense jungle which now abounds in the Dinagepore district and for the destruction of the tigers with which it is infested. The inhabitants are gradually deserting the neighbouring villages for fear of these tigers, which annually kill a large number of men and cattle.

Jungle and tigers in Dinagepore.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 15th January 1881.